Foreign travel scheme

2232. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under Foreign travel sc ienie both currency and travellers cheques are made available to a traveller going abroad;

(b) whether it s also a fact that this creates confusion in the payment of Air fare and later ca icellatio$_n$ of Air Tickets; and

(c) if so, whet ier Government propose to amend the s> >tem and provide entire foreign exchange *n* currency?

THE MINISTI R OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT)F EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. K. GADHVI), (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not irise.

Eagle m «i»n to Sri Lanka

2233. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: SHRI K. GOPALAN;

Will the Minis er of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the reasons which led to Indian Govern nent to launch Air Force Eagle Mission o Sri Lanka;

(b) what is the total number of planes involved in the i ission, category-wise; and

(c) what was ' 'e total cost of the mission?

THE M1NIST ER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PROODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATH): (a) Keeping in view the urgent and compelling humanitarian needs of the penple of Jaffna peninsula, India decided to air drop essential sup-plies on Jun$_e$ 4. Earlier, a convey of boats sent by India carrying essential sup-Plies had been turned back by the Sri Lankan navy.

(b) and (c) Transport aircraft for supply, dropping and fighter aircraft to provide Ai$_r$ Defenc$_e$ cover were utilised in this Mission. The total cost of the Mission is still to be assessed.

Uranium smuggling from Jaduguda mines

2234. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be plea-sed to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has bee$_n$ drawn to various press reports about uranium theft an<j its smuggling out of India; if so, what are the details in this regard and the total value of uranium involved;

(b) what steps have been taken to stop smuggling of uranium from Jaduguda mines in Bihar wher$_e$ som$_e$ cases have been reported during the last three years giving details of thes$_e$ cases and tie outcome thereof; and

(c) wh'at action has been taken against the persons involved and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECH NOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.' R. NARAYANAN); (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the various Press Reports about Uraniumi theft and its smuggling out of India Periodical samples of seixed material have been sent by the Investigating Agencies to this Department for analysis and OO tsting it has been found that none of the samples contained uranium.

(b) Strict security measures exist ia the Uranium Mine and Mill Complex at Jaduguda under the Central Industrial Security Force starting from the main gate. Central Industrial Security Force personnel are on duty round the clock in the Plant, and Mine, and the end produet area, whcr$_e$ the product comes out from the Plant is fenced and guarded by CISF personnel in all three shifts. Therefore, there is no scope for theft of uranium from Jaduguda.

(c) Does not arise.

(Investigation in illegal deposit;,; in , Swiss banks

2235. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether th$_e$ attention of Government ha$_s$ been drawn to the recent judgement of the Supreme Court of Switzerland regarding relaxation of its strict bank secrecy laws to allow investigators to look into the wealth of the deposed President, Mr. Ferdinand Marcos, believed to be kept in the Swedish banks; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any propjsal to seek similar permission from the Courts in the Switzerland to investigate into huge illegal deposits by certain Indians in the Swiss banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI); (a) and (b) The Swiss Federal Law known as Federal Act on International Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (IMAC) provides for rendering of mutual assistance in criminal matters where acts with respect to which assistance is sought satisfy the test of dual criminality and the State seeking assistance guarantees reciprocity to Swiss authorities. If the above conditions are satisfied, Swiss authorities would entertain requests for assistance in criminal matters under the provisions of IMAC and suitable proceedings could be initiated in Swiss courts for obtaining the requisite information from the concerted banks. The Swiss authorities processed the case of the deposed President of Philippines,. Mr. Marcos, as a special case.

Government i$_9$ initiating steps to enter into a treaty for mutual assistance in criminal matters with Swiss authorities, and pending conclusion of such a treaty|agree-ment entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Swis$_3$ authorities for assistance in specific cases of Indian having accounts in Swiss banks with funds obtained illegally.

Premature retirement of Director-General of ordnance 'factories

2236. SHRI SHANKER SlNH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Director General of ordnance factories, Shri J. C. Marwah, who was incftiarge of 36 major ordnance factories, ha,} to quite on premature retirement as he had pointed out some flaws in the Bofore Project Report regarding metal content of the guns and was not prepared to accept the project report as it was;

(b) if so, what are the details in thl* regard; and

(c) what were the flaws pointed out by him? ;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir. Shri J. C. Marwaha, former Director General of Ordnance Factqries|Chairman, Ordnance Factory Board, was 'due to superannuate on 30.11.1987. He retired voluntarily w.e.f. 30.6:87 in terms of rule 48 CCS (Pension) Rules. In response to newspaper reports alleging differences of opinion between him and the Government on the Bofors deal, Shri Marwaha has forcefully denied of any difference on Bofor$_s$ deal or for that purpose on any other issue with the Ministry. According to him the newspaper reports are mis-chieveous and definitely without any basis.

(b) and (c) Do not arise